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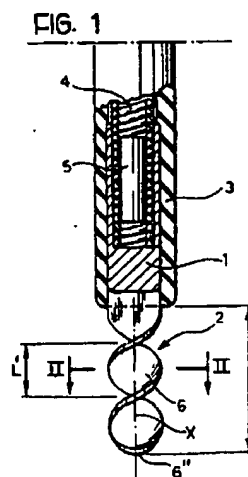
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54 Electrode for cardiac stimulators.

57 The electrode presents a helical tip formed by a metal strip with rounded longitudinal and terminal edges, helically twisted about its longitudinal axis.



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"Electrode for cardiac stimulators"

This invention refers to an electrode for cardiac stimulators ("pacemaker"), particularly suited for atrial applications.

- 5 Electrodes are known with a helical tip formed by a loop of metallic wire loosely twisted on itself so as to form helical congruent turns merging into each other at the free end of the tip. Such electrodes have the advantage of a "screwed" anchorage within the trabeculae  
10 of the cardiac wall with the consequent stability of the electrode. A further advantage seems to consist in the lowering of the threshold of stimulation.

- The object of this invention is to provide an electrode  
15 with improved helical tip, which would be practically not-thrombogenic (particularly at the free end), would produce only an insignificant trauma in the endocardiac surface and in any case would not damage the myocardium. A further object is to obtain a particularly low  
20 stimulation threshold and a high sensitivity to the impulses coming from the cardiac wall.

- According to the invention, the helical tip of the electrode is formed by a metal strip with rounded  
25 longitudinal and terminal edges, helically twisted about its longitudinal axis. Also the free end of the strip has a rounded shape.

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Preferably, the tip has a total of from 1 to 3 torsion turns. Advantageously, the length of the tip is of the order of 5-7 mm, the width of the strip is of the order of 1.0 to 1.5 and its thickness is of the order of 0.2 to 0.3 mm.

According to a preferred embodiment, the strip is constituted by a platinum/iridium alloy (preferably with Pt/Ir = 90/10) and is coated with a thin layer of platinum sponge, so that the whole useful surface of the helical tip is porous preferably with pores of the diameter of about 40 microns. Such coating can easily be obtained by electrolytic deposition forming a porous deposit, and by a subsequent thermal treatment of sintering according to a process forming the subject matter of Applicant's separate application (Case E041-FJ) filed on the same date and having the title "Electrode for cardiac stimulators and process for its manufacture".

An electrode according to the invention is illustrated by way of example in the appended drawings, in which:

- Fig. 1 is an axial cross-sectional view of the terminal part of an endocardiac probe comprising the involved electrode and

- Fig. 2 is a transverse cross-sectional view on line II-II of Fig. 1.

In the illustrated embodiment, the electrode comprises

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a body 1 in the form of a cylindrical cap and a helical tip 2, both of platinum/iridium 90/10. The cap-shaped body 1 is inserted into the end of a silicone rubber sheath 3 containing an electrical conductor 4 in form of helical spiral, which can be monofilament but preferably is composed of three filaments for reliability reasons, according to the known art. The spiral 4 penetrates into the cap-shaped body 1, which is crimped on a length of the spiral containing a small metallic cylinder 5 acting as "anvil" or "mandrel" against crushing of the spiral during crimping.

The helical tip 2 is formed by a strip 6 of Pt/Ir 90/10, which can be integral with the body 1 or fitted to the latter by welding. The longitudinal and terminal edges 6' of the strip 6 are rounded, as is shown in Fig. 2. The width D of the strip 6 is equal to the diameter of the body 1 and amounts to about 1.2 mm. Its thickness S is about 0.25 mm. The free end 6" of the strip is rounded and the strip is twisted on its longitudinal axis X for a total of about 1.2 turns. The length L of the resulting helical tip is of 6-7 mm. The tip is entirely coated with a porous layer 7 of platinum, of a thickness of a few hundredths of millimeter.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, while the whole helical tip serves for anchoring in the cardiac wall, only a limited segment of its length is freely exposed and coated with a porous layer, while the remaining part of the tip is coated by an electrical-

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ly insulating pellicular layer, so as to obtain on said segment the desired current density. Such segment is preferably an intermediate segment, as for example the half turn denoted by L' in Fig. 1. The pellicular  
5 insulating layer may have a thickness of only a few microns and can be obtained by means of a silicone rubber paint. However, the most suited material is that known under the trade name PARYLENE, which design-  
10 ates polymers based on paraxylylene forming thermoplastic films by polymerisation from vapour phase on the surface to be coated, kept cold. The most suited type of Parylene seems to be the poly-monochloro-p-xylylene, but also the ordinary poly-p-xylylene can be employed with success. During the deposition from vapour phase,  
15 the segment of the helical tip (as that L' in Fig. 1) which has to remain uncoated is kept protected by means of a suitable temporary "resist" layer, constituted for example by an ordinary self-adhesive tape.

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## CLAIMS:

1. Electrode with helical tip for cardiac stimulators, characterized in that the tip is formed by a metallic strip with rounded edges, helically twisted about its longitudinal axis.
- 5 2. Electrode according to claim 1, in which the tip has a total of from 1 to 3 complete turns of torsion.
3. Electrode according to claim 1 or 2, in which the  
10 length of the tip is 5-7 mm.
4. Electrode according to claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the width of the strip is 1.0 - 1.5 mm and its thickness is 0.2 - 0.3 mm.
- 15 5. Electrode according to any of the preceding claims, in which only a limited segment of the length of the helical tip is freely exposed, the remaining part of the tip being coated with an electrically insulating  
20 pellicular layer.
6. Electrode according to claim 5, in which said limited segment is an intermediate one.
- 25 7. Electrode according to any of the preceding claims, in which at least the exposed segment of the helical tip has a porous surface.

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8. Electrode according to claim 7, in which the helical tip is of platinum/iridium and the porous surface is constituted by platinum sponge.
- 5 9. Electrode according to claim 8, in which the weight ratio Pt/Ir amounts at least substantially to 90/10.
- 10 10. Electrode according to claim 8, in which the diameter of the pores of the platinum sponge is about 40 microns.
11. Electrode according to claim 8 or 10, in which the platinum sponge is a sintered electrolytic porous layer.

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FIG. 1

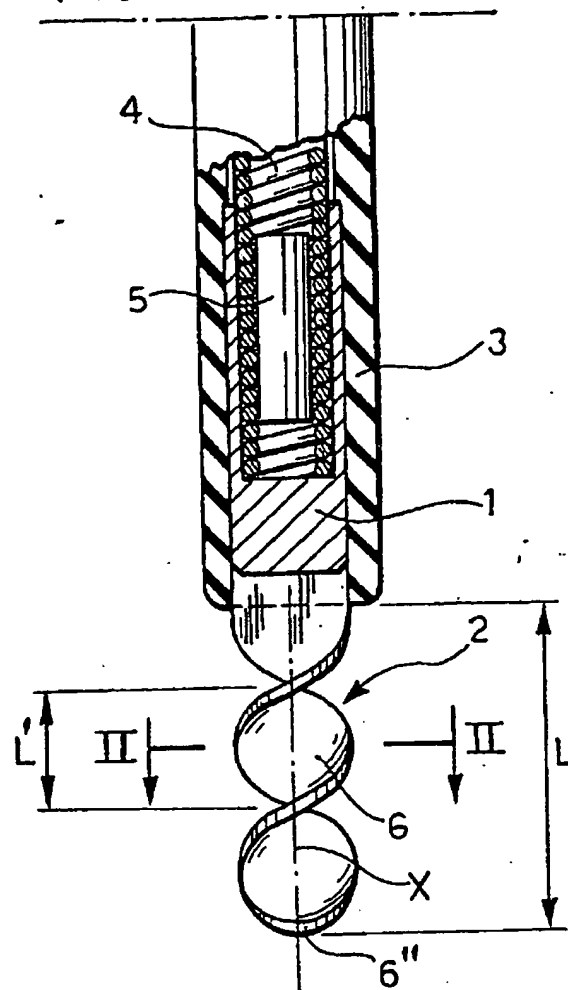
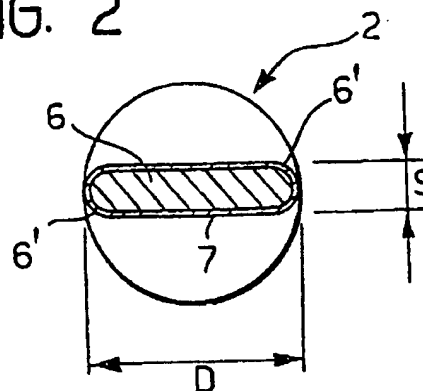


FIG. 2







European Patent  
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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0042551

Application number

EP 81 10 4508

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
	<p><u>US - A - 4 026 303 (VITATRON)</u></p> <p>* column 2, line 66 to column 3, line 19; column 3, lines 33-59; column 4, lines 17-20 and 32-38 *</p> <p>--</p> <p><u>FR - A - 2 235 708 (LENGERGREN)</u></p> <p>* Page 2, lines 12-14; page 3, lines 19-21 and 38-40; figure 4 *</p> <p>--</p> <p>BIOMEDISCH TECHNIK, vol. 24, no. 1/2, January/February 1979 Berlin, DE BISPING "Übersicht über verankerbare transvenöse Schrittmacher-sonden" pages 16-27.</p> <p>* Page 19, last paragraph and figure 6 *</p> <p>--</p> <p><u>DE - A - 1 939 806 (GOLDBERG)</u></p> <p>* Page 9, last paragraph; page 11, paragraph 2 *</p> <p>--</p> <p><u>US - A - 3 749 101 (CORDIS)</u></p> <p>* Column 1, line 65 to column 2, line 17; column 2, lines 29-45 *</p> <p>--</p> <p><u>US - A - 4 011 861 (ENGER)</u></p> <p>* Column 2, lines 32-34 and 41-48; column 4, lines 40-42; column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 20 *</p>	<p>1-5,8</p> <p>1,3-5</p> <p>1,8</p> <p>5,6</p> <p>7,8</p> <p>7,8, 10,11</p>	<p>A 61 N 1/04</p> <p>TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.)</p> <p>A 61 N 1/04</p> <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X: particularly relevant A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: conflicting application D: document cited in the application L: citation for other reasons</p> <p>&amp;: member of the same patent family. corresponding document</p>
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
The Hague	16-09-1981	SIMON	

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Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number  
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 3)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
	<p><u>US - A - 4 156 429</u> (CARDIAC PACEMAKERS)</p> <p>* Column 2, lines 44-49; column 5, lines 10-13 and 24-30 *</p> <p>-----</p>	9,11	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 3)

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